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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/649,993

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EXAMINER

AIRAPETIAN, MILA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/649,993	Applicant(s) TAKAOKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Mila Airapetian	Art Unit 3625	

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellenson et al. (hereinafter Ellenson) (US 2005/0108112) in view of Official Notice.

Claim 1.

Ellenson teaches a system for facilitating the real-time pricing, sale and appraisal of vehicles comprising:

a reception unit which receives specification information specifying specifications for a vehicle and an estimation request from said client terminal [0027];

a reading unit which reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted from said estimated price database based upon the specification information [0028];

a first transmission unit which sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read by said reading unit to said client terminal [0027], [0071], [0094];

a second transmission unit which sends the specification information received by said reception unit to said dealer terminal in order to inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071], [0094]; and

a control unit which, when the estimation request is received by said reception unit, decides whether to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire the estimated price from said dealer, and controls said first transmission unit or said second transmission unit [0071], [0094].

Ellenson does not specifically teach that said unit (server) includes first and second units for performing said functionalities.

Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known that software/hardware modules are frequently upgraded due to development in technology.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson to include that said functionalities are performed by first and second software/hardware units, because it would advantageously allow to upgrade each units separately.

Claim 2. Ellenson teaches said system further comprising a confirmation unit which confirms with said terminal apparatus whether or not the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read by said reading unit may be presented to a client, wherein, according to a result of confirmation by said confirmation unit, the estimated price to be automatically transmitted is sent to said client terminal by said first transmission unit [0089].

Claim 3. Ellenson teaches said system wherein, in response to an estimation request which is received within a predetermined period from update of the estimated price to be automatically transmitted in said estimated price database, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal [0040].

Claim 8. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said estimated price database stores the estimated price to be automatically transmitted for each salesclerk of said dealer, said reception unit further receives salesclerk information specifying the salesclerk from said client terminal, and said reading unit reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted from said estimated price database based upon the salesclerk information and the specification information [0083].

Claim 9. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said estimated price database stores an estimated price to be automatically transmitted for all specifications of the vehicle, and said reading unit reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted for the same specifications as specification included in the specification information received by said reception unit [0081].

Claim 11. Ellenson teaches said system, wherein said estimated price database stores an estimated price to be automatically transmitted for specifications of a part of the vehicle, in the case in which an estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the specification information received by said reception unit is not stored in said estimated price database, said reading unit reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted of specifications close to the specification information, and said control unit corrects the read estimated price to be automatically transmitted and sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said client terminal by said first transmission unit as an estimated price to be automatically transmitted corresponding to the specification information received by said reception unit [0049].

Claim 12. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said sales support server is managed by a manufacturer of the vehicle, and an estimated price to be automatically

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transmitted included in said estimated price database cannot be updated freely by the manufacturer but can be updated only by access from said dealer terminal [0049].

Claim 13. Ellenson teaches said system, wherein said reception unit further receives client information specifying a client from said client terminal, said control unit decides whether to send an estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire an estimated price from said dealer according to the client information received by said reception unit, and in the case in which said control unit decides that said sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer, said second transmission unit sends the client information and the specification information received by said reception unit to said dealer terminal [0071].

Claim 14. Ellenson teaches said system, wherein said sales support server is capable of communicating with an automatic reply prohibited client database in which clients to whom an estimated price to be automatically transmitted should not be automatically sent are registered, and said control unit refers to said automatic reply prohibited client database and, if the client information received by said reception unit is included in said automatic reply prohibited client database, decides that the sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071].

Claim 15. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said sales support server is capable of communicating with a number of times of estimation database in which the number of times estimation is requested is stored for each client, and said control unit refers to said number of times of estimation database and, in the case in which a client, who has made the estimation request received by said reception unit, requested estimation a predetermined number of times or more in the past, decides that the sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0081].

Claim 16. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said reception unit is capable of further receiving a comment made by the client, and in the case in which said reception

unit receives the comment, said control unit decides that the sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071].

Claim 17. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said estimated price database stores specifications of a vehicle for a plurality of types of vehicles, an estimated price to be automatically transmitted in selling the vehicle, and first calculator identification information of a person who has calculated the estimated price to be automatically transmitted associating them with each other, said reception unit further receives second calculator identification information of a person who should calculate an estimated price from said client terminal, said control unit decides whether or not said first calculator identification information corresponding to the estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the specification information received by said reception unit and said second calculator identification information received by said reception unit are different, and in the case in which said control unit decides that the first calculator identification information and the second calculator identification information are different, said second transmission unit sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said dealer terminal and requests approval on transmitting the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said client terminal [0071].

Claim 18. Ellenson teaches a system for facilitating the real-time pricing, sale and appraisal of vehicles comprising:

reception means which receives specification information specifying specifications for a vehicle and an estimation request from said client terminal [0027];

reading means which reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted from said estimated price database based upon the specification information [0028];

first transmission means which sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read by said reading means to said client terminal [0027], [0071], [0094];

second transmission means which sends the specification information received by said reception means to said dealer terminal in order to inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071], [0094]; and

control means which, when the estimation request is received by said reception means, decides whether to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire the estimated price from said dealer, and controls said first transmission means or said second transmission means [0071], [0094].

Claim 19. Ellenson teaches said system, wherein said reception means further receives client information specifying a client from said client terminal, said control means decides whether to send an estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire an estimated price from said dealer according to the client information received by said reception means, and in the case in which said control means decides that said sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer, said second transmission means sends the client information and the specification information received by said reception means to said dealer terminal [0040], [0071].

Claim 20. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said reception means is capable of further receiving a comment made by the client, and in the case in which said reception means receives the comment, said control means decides that the sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071].

Claim 21. Ellenson teaches said system, wherein said estimated price database stores specifications of a vehicle for a plurality of types of vehicles, an estimated price to be automatically transmitted in selling the vehicle,

and first calculator identification information of a person who has calculated the estimated price to be automatically transmitted associating them with each other [0027],

said reception means further receives second calculator identification information of a person who should calculate an estimated price from said client terminal [0027],

said control means decides whether or not said first calculator identification information corresponding to the estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the specification information received by said reception means and said second calculator identification information received by said reception means are different [0071], and

in the case in which said control means decides that the first calculator identification information and the second calculator identification information are different, said second transmission means sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said dealer terminal and requests approval on transmitting the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said client terminal [0071].

Claim 22. Ellenson teaches a system for facilitating the real-time pricing, sale and appraisal of vehicles including:

a sales support server managed by a manufacturer of vehicles; a dealer terminal used by a dealer of vehicles; a client terminal; and an estimated price database, in which specifications for vehicles and estimated prices to be automatically transmitted for the vehicles are stored in association with each other for a plurality of kinds of vehicles, the sales support server, the dealer terminal, the client terminal, and the estimated price database are capable of communicating with each other via a network [0028],

wherein said sales support server comprises:

a reception unit which receives specification information specifying specifications for a vehicle and an estimation request from said client terminal [0027];

a reading unit which reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted from said estimated price database based upon the specification information [0028];

a first transmission unit which sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read by said reading unit to said client terminal [0027], [0071], [0094];

a second transmission unit which sends the specification information received by said reception unit to said dealer terminal in order to inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071], [0094]; and

a control unit which, when the estimation request is received by said reception unit, decides whether to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire the estimated price from said dealer, and controls said first transmission unit or said second transmission unit [0071], [0094].

Claim 23. Ellenson teaches said system wherein said reception unit further receives client information specifying a client from said client terminal, said control unit decides whether to send an estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire an estimated price from said dealer according to the client information received by said reception unit, and in the case in which said control unit decides that said sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer, said second transmission unit sends the client information and the specification information received by said reception unit to said dealer terminal [0040], [0071].

Claim 24. Ellenson teaches said system, the sales support server according to claim 1, wherein said reception unit is capable of further receiving a comment made by the client, and in the case in which said reception unit receives the comment, said control unit decides that the sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0044], [0071].

Claim 25. The sales support system according to claim 22,
wherein said estimated price database stores specifications of a vehicle for a plurality of types of vehicles, an estimated price to be automatically transmitted in selling the vehicle, and first calculator identification information of a person who has calculated

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the estimated price to be automatically transmitted associating them with each other
[[027],

said reception unit further receives second calculator identification information of
a person who should calculate an estimated price from said client terminal [0040],

said control unit decides whether or not said first calculator identification
information corresponding to the estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the
specification information received by said reception unit and said second calculator
identification information received by said reception unit are different [0071], and

in the case in which said control unit decides that the first calculator identification
information and the second calculator identification information are different, said
second transmission unit sends the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to
said dealer terminal and requests approval on transmitting the estimated price to be
automatically transmitted to said client terminal [0071].

Claim 26. Ellenson teaches a method for facilitating the real-time pricing, sale
and appraisal of vehicles comprising:

a reception step in which said sales support server receives specification
information specifying specifications for a vehicle and an estimation request from said
client terminal [0027];

a decision step of, when the estimation request is received in the reception step,
deciding whether to send an estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in
said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire an estimated price
from said dealer [0071];

a first transmission step of, if it is decided in said decision step to send the
estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database
to said client terminal, reading the estimated price to be automatically transmitted from

said estimated price database based upon the specification information received in said reception step and sending the estimated price to said client terminal [0071]; and

a second transmission step of, if it is decided in said decision step to inquire the estimated price from said dealer, sending the specification information received in said reception step to said dealer terminal [0071].

Claim 27. Ellenson teaches said method, wherein,

in said reception step, client information specifying a client is received from said client terminal, in said decision step, it is decided whether to send an estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal or to inquire an estimated price from said dealer according to the client information received in said reception step [0071], and

in said second transmission step, in the case in which it is decided in said decision step said sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer, the client information and the specification information received in said reception step to said dealer terminal [0071].

Claim 28. Ellenson teaches said method, wherein, in said reception step, a comment made by the client can be further received from said client terminal, and in said decision step, in the case in which the comment is received in said reception step, it is decided that said sales support server should inquire an estimated price from said dealer [0071].

Claim 29. Ellenson teaches said method, wherein said estimated price database stores specifications of a vehicle for a plurality of types of vehicles, an estimated price to be automatically transmitted in selling the vehicle, and first calculator identification information of a person who has calculated the estimated price to be automatically transmitted associating them with each other [0027],

in said reception step, second calculator identification information of a person who should calculate an estimated price is further received from said client terminal [0040],

in said decision step, it is decided whether or not said first calculator identification information corresponding to the estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the specification information received in said reception step and said second calculator identification information received in said reception step are different [0071], and

in said second transmission step, in the case in which it is decided in said decision step that the first calculator identification information and the second calculator identification information are different, the estimated price to be automatically transmitted is sent to said dealer terminal and approval on transmitting the estimated price to be automatically transmitted to said client terminal is requested [0071].

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellenson in view of Reece (US 2003/0061179).

Claim 4. Ellenson teaches all the limitations of claim 4 except that said control unit uses the specification information received by said reception unit to read a related market price from said price information database and read an estimated price to be automatically transmitted from said estimated price database and, in the case in which a difference between the read estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the market price is within a predetermined range, controls said first transmission unit to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal.

Reece teaches said system, including threshold pricing process means for comparing the threshold price with the network operator's price in market environment, wherein if the network operator's price is less than or equal to the threshold price, the threshold pricing process will allow the communication to continue or start the set-up

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process; if the network operator's price exceeds the threshold price, the process will generate several options for the user [0007].

Ellenson and Reece do not specifically teach that if a difference between the read estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the market price is within a predetermined range, controlling said first transmission unit to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal.

However, there is no indication in the specification that said arrangement provides advantages over teaching of the prior art. Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson and Reece to include that if a difference between the read estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the market price is within a predetermined range, controlling said first transmission unit to send the estimated price to be automatically transmitted stored in said estimated price database to said client terminal, because it would advantageously allow to maximize profits in dynamic pricing environment.

Claim 5. Ellenson teaches all the limitations of claim 5 except that said reception unit further receives a desired price at which a client desires to purchase a vehicle from said client terminal, and in the case in which the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read from said estimated price database is higher than the desired price received by said reception unit, if a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the read estimated price to said client terminal.

Reece teaches said system, including threshold pricing process means for comparing the threshold price with the network operator's price in market environment, wherein if the network operator's price is less than or equal to the threshold price, the threshold pricing process will allow the communication to continue or start the set-up

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process; if the network operator's price exceeds the threshold price, the process will generate several options for the user [0007].

Ellenson and Reece do not specifically teach that a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the read estimated price to said client terminal.

However, there is no indication in the specification that said arrangement provides advantages over teaching of the prior art. Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson and Reece to include that a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the read estimated price to said client terminal, because it would advantageously allow to maximize profits in dynamic pricing environment.

Claim 6. Ellenson teaches all the limitations of claim 6 except said reception unit further receives a desired price at which a client desires to purchase a vehicle from said client terminal, and in the case in which the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read from said estimated price database is higher than the desired price received by said reception unit, if a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price.

Reece teaches said system, including threshold pricing process means for comparing the threshold price with the network operator's price in market environment, wherein if the network operator's price is less than or equal to the threshold price, the threshold pricing process will allow the communication to continue or start the set-up process; if the network operator's price exceeds the threshold price, the process will generate several options for the user [0007].

Ellenson and Reece do not specifically teach that if a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price.

However, there is no indication in the specification that said arrangement provides advantages over teaching of the prior art. Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson and Reece to include that if a difference between the estimated price to be automatically transmitted and the desired price is within a predetermined range, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price, because it would advantageously allow to maximize profits in dynamic pricing environment.

Claim 7. Ellenson teaches all the limitations of claim 7 except said reception unit further receives a desired price at which a client desires to purchase a vehicle from said client terminal, and in the case in which the desired price received by said reception unit is higher than the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read from said estimated price database, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price.

Reece teaches said system, including threshold pricing process means for comparing the threshold price with the network operator's price in market environment, wherein if the network operator's price is less than or equal to the threshold price, the threshold pricing process will allow the communication to continue or start the set-up process; if the network operator's price exceeds the threshold price, the process will generate several options for the user [0007].

Ellenson and Reece do not specifically teach that if the desired price received by said reception unit is higher than the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read from said estimated price database, said control unit controls said first

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transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price

However, there is no indication in the specification that said arrangement provides advantages over teaching of the prior art. Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson and Reece to include that if the desired price received by said reception unit is higher than the estimated price to be automatically transmitted read from said estimated price database, said control unit controls said first transmission unit to send the received desired price to said client terminal as an estimated price, because it would advantageously allow to maximize profits in dynamic pricing environment.

Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellenson in view of Pous et al. (hereinafter Pous) (US 2003/0135429).

Claim 10. Ellenson teaches all the limitations of claim 10 except that said estimated price database stores an estimated price to be automatically transmitted for specifications of a part of the vehicle, and in the case in which an estimated price to be automatically transmitted of the specification information received by said reception unit is not stored in said estimated price database, said reading unit reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted of specifications close to the specification information.

Pous teaches a custom engineered product system wherein the specification may be compared to those of the available products to determine closest matches which may then be suggested to the customer [0027], [0028].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellenson to include that said estimated price database stores an estimated price to be automatically transmitted for specifications of a part of the vehicle, and in the case in which an estimated price to be automatically transmitted

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of the specification information received by said reception unit is not stored in said estimated price database, said reading unit reads an estimated price to be automatically transmitted of specifications close to the specification information, as disclosed in Pous, because it would allow to rapidly respond to a client's or market's need for specialty products or services (Pous, [0007]).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) US 2002/0178069 to Walker et al. discloses a dynamic quality control conditional purchase offer management system.

(ii) US 2002/0138339 to Hoshi discloses a customer information control system and method.

(iii) US 2002/0023052 to Remley et al. discloses a reduced-risk agricultural transactions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mila Airapetian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on (571) 272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mila Airapetian
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3625



Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner